

# Canine Parvovirus

Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious gastrointestinal disease. Puppies less than 6 months old and unvaccinated dogs are most at risk to contract a serious case of the disease, which can be fatal.

## Transmission

- ▶ Parvovirus is spread primarily through exposure to infected feces. Don't let your dog or puppy sniff other dogs' waste.
- ▶ Parvo cannot be killed with household cleaners, and can persist in the environment for months to years if not killed with bleach.
- ▶ Dogs infected with parvovirus require veterinary care and should be isolated from other dogs.

## Symptoms

- ▶ Symptoms include: vomiting, lethargy, severe and/or bloody diarrhea, lack of appetite, and dehydration. If your dog shows these symptoms, contact your veterinarian immediately.

## Prevention

- ▶ Vaccinations should begin at 6 to 8 weeks of age with follow-up booster shots. Puppies should receive a series of booster vaccines between the ages of 6 and 16 weeks.
- ▶ **A single vaccine is not adequate protection.**
- ▶ Adult dogs should receive a booster shot regularly at your veterinarian's direction.
- ▶ Until your puppy receives its complete series of shots, or if your adult dog is not current on its booster, you should be cautious when socializing your pet at kennels, pet shops, parks, obedience classes, daycare, and the groomer.

**Parvovirus is a highly contagious and sometimes fatal disease that is preventable through vaccination.**

